

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the security of software, comprising the steps of:

reading encrypted software from a non-volatile storage medium;  
storing said encrypted software in a temporary storage medium; and,  
contemporaneously decrypting these portions a portion of said encrypted software ~~that are~~ as said portion is read into an instruction cache in a processor ~~as each of said portions is read into said instruction cache.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein ~~any portions~~ portion of said encrypted software not read into said instruction cache ~~are~~ is left in an encrypted state.

3. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein said encrypted software comprises the steps of a computer program.

4. (Original) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein said temporary storage medium is computer RAM.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein said step of decrypting said ~~encrypted software portions~~ portion of said encrypted software is accomplished by a decryption unit located within said processor.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim 1, wherein said step of decrypting said ~~encrypted software portions~~ portion of said encrypted software is accomplished by a dedicated decryption device.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for protecting the security of encrypted software, comprising:

a computer software non-volatile storage device for storing encrypted software;  
a computer software temporary storage device for storing encrypted software,  
coupled with said computer software non-volatile storage device; and,

a processing device, coupled with said computer software temporary storage device, comprising an internal instruction cache and a decryption unit;

wherein said decryption unit is adapted to contemporaneously decrypt ~~selected portions~~ a portion of said encrypted software as ~~each of said portions~~ portion is written to said instruction cache of said processing device.

8. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said non-volatile storage device is an optical storage device.

9. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said non-volatile storage device is a magnetic storage device.

10. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said non-volatile storage device is located remotely from said processor.

11. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said temporary storage device is computer RAM.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting the security of encrypted software, comprising:

a computing device capable of receiving and storing software, said computing device further comprising:

a computer software non-volatile storage device;

a computer software temporary storage device, coupled with said computer software non-volatile storage device; and,

a processing device, coupled with said computer software temporary storage device, and comprising an instruction cache and a decryption unit;

encrypted software, operable to be stored in said temporary software storage device;

wherein said decryption unit is adapted to contemporaneously decrypt a portion of said encrypted software as said software portion is called to be written to said instruction cache of said processing device.

13. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said decryption unit is implemented in a hardware device.

14. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said decryption unit is implemented in software.

15. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said encrypted software comprises the steps of a computer program.

16. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said encrypted software comprises intellectual property intended to be processed by another computer program.